Film Shorts

The world premiere of **"The Mambo Kings,"** the story of two Cuban musician brothers who seek fame and fortune during the 1950s, will launch this year's **Miami Film Festival.**

Starring **Armand Assante** and **Antonio Banderas**, "The Mambo Kings" is based on Cuban-American writer **Oscar Hijuelos**' 1990 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

Desi Arnaz Jr. plays his bandleader-father, the late **Desi Arnaz**, who hears the two brothers play and invites them to perform on his hit television show. All three actors are expected at the screening Feb. 7. The screenplay was written by Cuban-born, Miami-reared **Cynthia Cidre.**

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"The Harvest," a suspense thriller starring **Miguel Ferrer, Leilani Sarelle, Anthony John Denison, Harvey Fierstein, Henry Silva** and **Matt Clark,** has completed principal photography in Puerto Vallarta and Mexico City. Written and directed by **David Marconi** in his feature debut, the film tells the story of a screenwriter given one last chance to salvage his script and thus his career.

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Award-winning composer **Jean-Claude Petit** is set to score Gilles Mackinnon's **"The Playboys"** for the **Samuel Goldwyn Co.** "The Playboys" stars **Albert Finney, Aidan Quinn** and **Robin Wright** in the story of a middle-aged police sergeant, a beautiful young mother and a romantic opportunist caught in a love triangle set in a small Irish village. **Shane Connaughton** wrote the screenplay and **Bill Cartlidge** is the producer. It is scheduled for a May release.

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Loews Theatres generated its highest one-week gross ever Dec. 25-31 with a record-breaking $9,776,019 total taken from 866 screens at 187 locations in 15 states, according to Loews Theatres chairman **A. Alan Friedberg.**

Two of the circuit's Manhattan theaters held the No. 1 national gross for pictures through Jan. 7 — **"The Prince of Tides"** at the Orpheum Theatre VII with $160,011 and **"Bugsy"** at the 84th Street VI with $241,695. **"JFK"** posted its second, third and fourth highest numbers at three of Loews' N.Y. theaters.

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The Los Angeles County Museum of Art and **Walt Disney Pictures** will screen the work-in-progress edition of animated feature **"Beauty and the Beast"** at Glen Glenn Sound Studios in Hollywood on Saturday and Sunday.

First presented at the New York Film Festival last September, the unfinished version features a unique combination of pencil tests, rough animation and the finished color film.

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Sen. Edward Kennedy last week said he won't see the controversial Oliver Stone film **"JFK,"** but agreed with one of its conclusions: all the secret records about the Kennedy assassination should be released.

The comments by Kennedy came as the former chairman of a House committee that investigated the Nov. 22, 1963, killing of President Kennedy indicated he may propose releasing hundreds of boxes of records. The decision to seal the records until 2029 has come under sharp criticism by researchers and is noted in a printed message at the end of the "JFK" film.

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Pierce Brosnan will host a screening of **Miramax Films**' romantic comedy **"Hear My Song"** on Sunday at **Laemmle's Music Hall Theatre**, recognizing the accomplishments of the Irish film industry and its coventure with the British film community.

Miramax Films' co-chairman **Harvey** and **Bob Weinstein** will honor **Ned Beatty**, who has been nominated for a Golden Globe for his portrayal of the legendary Irish tenor Joseph Locke; **Adrian Dunbar**, who cowrote the screenplay; and director **Peter Chelsom**, who wrote the screenplay with Dunbar. Chelsom is English and Dunbar is Irish. The film was shot in both countries.

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Touchstone Pictures is rereleasing **"The Doctor"** at **Mann's Westwood** theater in Los Angeles beginning today for one week only.

Compiled by Karen Cusolito